



### *Adoption Services*

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San Bernardino, CA 92415-0913  
(909) 891-3300

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Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730  
(909) 945-3800

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Victorville, CA 92392  
(760) 243-6640

*San Bernardino County  
Department of  
Children's Services*

*Considering  
**Adoption**  
for Your Child*

*Voluntary  
Relinquishment*

**T**he Department of Children's Services' Adoption Agency places children for adoption when:

- The parent voluntarily "*relinquishes*" (gives up) parenting rights and responsibilities to the adoption agency,
- or**
- A parent's parental rights are involuntarily "*terminated*" (taken away) by the Court.

Adoption is the legal process transferring parental rights from the birth parents to another set of parents, permanently.

## **R**easons for Voluntary Relinquishment

When a child is a Juvenile Court dependent, the law (WIC § 358.1 e) requires the social worker to discuss whether the parent(s) have been advised of their option to participate in adoption planning, including the option to enter into a "Postadoption Contact Agreement."

Parents may consider voluntary relinquishment when they are unable to meet the child's needs in a safe and permanent home environment, because of:

- Severe personal problems
- Lack of family support
- Health or financial problems
- Other life situations preventing them from parenting their children.

## **A**doption Agency Services

The adoption agency is here to help parents make decisions about themselves and their child's future. You and the Adoption Social Worker can discuss:

- Your wishes and all available options
- Your child's needs
- How adoption works
- Your family history and medical information, and
- Your feelings about giving up parental rights, before and after you relinquish your child.

## **B**irth Parent Participation

If you decide to voluntarily give up parental rights, and the adoption agency accepts the relinquishment, you *may* be able to:

- Choose the adopting parents and name them in the legal paperwork.
- Allow the adoption agency to select the adopting parents for the child.
- Arrange with the social worker to meet the adopting parent(s) before the adoption is completed.
- Discuss the possibility of a *Postadoption Contact Agreement* for contact with your child after an adoption.

## **A**fter the Relinquishment

After you have discussed your concerns with the social worker, as well as legal matters and the child's adoptability, the adoption agency may accept the relinquishment.

After accepting the relinquishment, the social worker will:

- File the relinquishment with the State Department of Social Services, either immediately or within 30 days, according to your wishes.
- Be available to help with any remaining emotional issues.
- Keep you informed about your child until the adoption is completed.

The decision to relinquish your child should be made **only** after you carefully consider all options and *what is best for your child*.

## **M**ore Information

If you would like to know more about adoption, please call: (909) 891-3300 or (909) 945-3800.